Human trial of inhalable insulin

407. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports that insulin that can be inhaled to keep the blood sugar under check, named by its manufacturer as EXUBERA, has been put to experimental use on humans in US and other countries;

(b) if so, whether any such experimentation on inhalable insulin has been carried out in India also; and

(c) if so, the outcome of such experimentation and the follow up action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir, EXUBERA, a insulin formulation administered by oral inhalation is currently in Phase-III Clinical Trial abroad.

(b) and (c) As a part of Global Clinical Trial M/s Quintiles Research (India) Pvt. Ltd., has been permitted recently on 08.11.2005 to conduct clinical trial with Inhalable Insulin Formulation in the country. Outcome of the studies would depend upon the evidence produced in the study.

Hygienic Drainage Disposal System

408. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integral Coach Factory in Chennai is coming up with a proto-type of Hygienic Drainage Disposal System which would be operated by engine driver ahead one km. before the station;

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken by Government to install the new system in all the trains;

(c) whether the present system to control discharge in toilets installed in a couple of Rajdhani trains is costlier than the proposed one; and

(d) whether the old system would also be replaced by new ones in all Rajdhani trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion/laying of new rail lines in Chhattisgarh

†409. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of many projects on gauge conversion/laying of new rail tracks in Chhattisgarh approved already by Government is going on with a very slow pace due to the lack of adequate budget provision;

(b) whether these projects have been approved many years back by Government;

(c) whether his Ministry is taking steps to make the budget provision adequately in order to complete the ongoing works of laying of new lines and gauge conversion early;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) At present there is no sanctioned gauge conversion project in Chhattisgarh. There are only two sanctioned new line projects, *viz.*, Bishrampur-Ambikapur and Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur, in the State. The work of Bishrampur-Ambikapur new line is likely to be completed during 2005-06. The work of Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur new line has not yet been taken up as the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has not yet deposited the funds for construction of the first phase of this new line, *viz.*, Dallirajahara-Rowghat, for want of necessary forestry clearance.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.